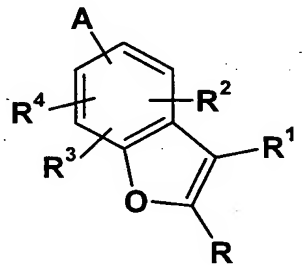
Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the Claims to cancel Claims 3 and 6 without prejudice and correct typographical errors as set forth below:

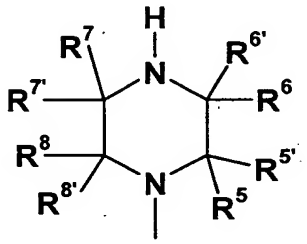
1. (Currently amended) The compounds of Formula I:



I

where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



(i)

R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^1 is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2, R^3, and R^4 are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethy-1-yl, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, -C(O)NHR^9, or C_1-C_6 alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_4 alkoxy and hydroxy;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen, ~~C_1-C_6 alkyl,~~ phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

$R^{5'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{5'}$ may be methyl only when R^5 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^5 and $R^{5'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

$R^{6'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{6'}$ may be methyl only when R^6 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^6 and $R^{6'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

R^7 is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{7'}$ may be methyl only when R^7 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^7 and $R^{7'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

$R^{8'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{8'}$ may be methyl only when R^8 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^8 and $R^{8'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

R^9 is C_1-C_8 alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof subject to the following provisos:

a) when R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, C^1-C_4 alkoxy, or C_1-C_4 alkyl, neither R^6 nor R^7 may be ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ hydrogen ~~and C_1-C_6 alkyl~~ unless:

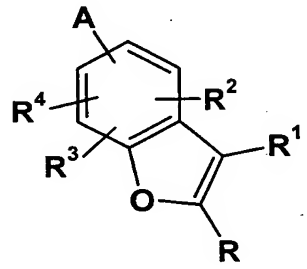
1. R is halo;
2. R^1 is halo or phenyl;
3. $R^{6'}$ or $R^{7'}$ is methyl; or
4. R^5 or R^8 are other than hydrogen;

b) ~~when R, R^1, and two of R^2, R^3, and R^4 are hydrogen and one of R^2, R^3, or R^4 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy,~~ at least one of R^5, R^6, R^7 , or R^8 must be other than hydrogen;

c) when R^1 is bromo or R is methyl, at least one of R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 must be other than hydrogen; and

d) no more than two of R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 may be other than hydrogen.

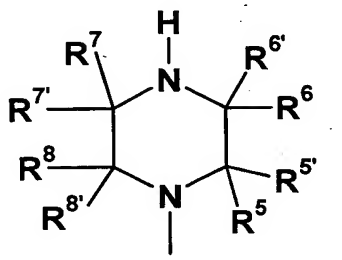
2. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical formulation which comprises, in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient, a compound of Formula I:



I

where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



(i)

R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^1 is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2, R^3, and R^4 are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethy-1-yl, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl,

-C(O)NHR^9, or C_1-C_6 alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_4 alkoxy and hydroxy;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen, ~~C_1-C_6 alkyl,~~ phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

$R^{5'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{5'}$ may be methyl only when R^5 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^5 and $R^{5'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

$R^{6'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{6'}$ may be methyl only when R^6 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^6 and $R^{6'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

R^7 is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{7'}$ may be methyl only when R^7 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^7 and $R^{7'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

$R^{8'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{8'}$ may be methyl only when R^8 is other than hydrogen; ~~or R^8 and $R^{8'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety~~;

R^9 is C_1-C_8 alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof subject to the following provisos:

a) when R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, C^1-C_4 alkoxy, or C_1-C_4 alkyl, neither R^6 nor R^7 may be ~~selected from the group consisting of~~ hydrogen ~~and C_1-C_6 alkyl~~ unless:

1. R is halo;
2. R^1 is halo or phenyl;
3. $R^{6'}$ or $R^{7'}$ is methyl; or
4. R^5 or R^8 are other than hydrogen;

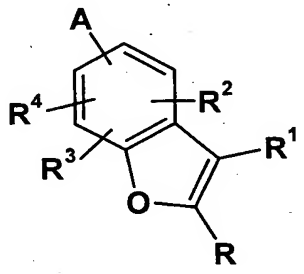
b) ~~when R, R^1, and two of R^2, R^3, and R^4 are hydrogen and one of R^2, R^3, or R^4 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy,~~ at least one of R^5, R^6, R^7, or R^8 must be other than hydrogen;

c) when R^1 is bromo or R is methyl, at least one of R^2, R^3, and R^4 must be other than hydrogen; and

d) no more than two of R^5, R^6, R^7, and R^8 may be other than hydrogen.

3. (Cancelled)

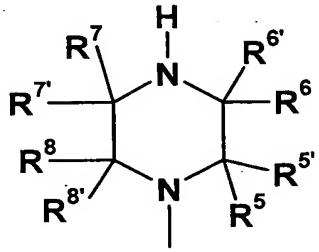
4. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of obesity in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such activation a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of Formula I:



I

where:

A is a piperazine of formula:



(i)

R is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^1 is hydrogen, halo, trifluoromethyl, phenyl, or C_1-C_6 alkyl;

R^2, R^3, and R^4 are independently hydrogen, halo, dihalomethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethy-1-yl, cyano, C_1-C_4 alkoxy, C_1-C_4 alkoxycarbonyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, C_1-C_6 alkyl, -C(O)NHR^9, or C_1-C_6 alkyl substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of halo, C_1-C_4 alkoxy and hydroxy;

R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are independently hydrogen, C_1-C_6 alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, hydroxymethyl, halomethyl, dihalomethyl, trihalomethyl, or benzyloxymethyl;

$R^{5'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{5'}$ may be methyl only when R^5 is other than hydrogen; or R^5 and $R^{5'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^{6'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{6'}$ may be methyl only when R^6 is other than hydrogen; or R^6 and $R^{6'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

R^7 is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{7'}$ may be methyl only when R^7 is other than hydrogen; or R^7 and $R^{7'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

$R^{8'}$ is hydrogen or methyl, provided that $R^{8'}$ may be methyl only when R^8 is other than hydrogen; or R^8 and $R^{8'}$, together with the carbon atom to which they are attached, form a cyclopropyl moiety;

R^9 is C_1-C_8 alkyl where the alkyl chain is optionally substituted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of phenyl and pyridyl;

or pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof subject to the following provisos:

a) when R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are all selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, trifluoromethyl, cyano, C^1-C_4 alkoxy, or C_1-C_4 alkyl, neither R^6 nor R^7 may be selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and C_1-C_6 alkyl unless:

1. R is halo;
2. R^1 is halo or phenyl;
3. $R^{6'}$ or $R^{7'}$ is methyl; or

4. R^5 or R^8 are other than hydrogen;

b) when R, R^1 , and two of R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are hydrogen and one of R^2, R^3, or R^4 is selected from the group consisting of fluoro, chloro, bromo, methyl, or methoxy, at least one of R^5 , R^6, R^7 , or R^8 must be other than hydrogen;

c) when R^1 is bromo or R is methyl, at least one of R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 must be other than hydrogen; and

d) no more than two of R^5 , R^6 , R^7 , and R^8 may be other than hydrogen.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 4 where the mammal is human.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of obsessive compulsive disorder in mammals, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of a compound of Formula I of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

10. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 9 where the mammal is human.

11. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 1 where A is attached at either the 4- or 7-position of the benzofuran nucleus.

12. (Previously presented) A compound of Claim 11 where A is attached at the 7-position of the benzofuran nucleus.

13. (Previously presented) A compound according to Claim 12 where R^2, R^3, R^4 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, difluoromethyl, or trifluoromethyl.

14 –17. (Cancelled)